

Agenda Item: 3

Date: April 7, 2021

Commission Action Date: April 13, 2021

**TO:** Arts & Culture Commission

**FROM:** Kathryn Dippong Lawson, Recreation Supervisor  
Emily Fox, Recreation Manager

**SUBJECT:** Review & Recommend - Public Art Utility Box at Santa Clara Street and Oak Street.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This is an action item. It is recommended that the Arts & Culture Commission review and recommend the public art utility box design proposed for the utility box located on the corner of Santa Clara Street and Oak Street.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

The Community Partnerships Division has received a public art utility box application from artist Isabella Ekfeldt. Isabella describes her proposed artistic rendering for the utility box as follows:

*"The main subject of my piece is the flowing heart that wraps around the whole box. It represents the love that connects us all which I have seen time and time again in Ventura County in the last year.*

*The childlike choice of colors brings an optimistic perspective of brighter days with the feelings of joy and play. The groups of eyes demonstrate that we are not alone in this and can look to others for support and wellness. Adding the fun optical illusion of the checkerboards to tie it all together.*

*The bountiful fruit on side three not only shows the changing of the seasons but the fresh fruit that is sold at the local farmers markets. It also reminds me of simpler times when I would spend my childhood summers in Sweden picking the wild strawberries.*

*The last side is dedicated to finding peace and a little home within the boat community. Boat culture has emerged into my life in many ways and now has a little place in my heart as well. Lastly, looking at the top of the box there is the sun. I see the sun as a protector and ultimate provider."*

City staff has reviewed the submitted public art utility box application packet. The application meets all requirements and is eligible to move to the artist rendering review and recommendation phase by the Arts & Culture Commission.

Attachments for Review:

- [Attachment A: Utility Box Location](#)
- [Attachment B: Utility Box Design Rendering](#)